

# **Washington Department of Corrections Sustainability Plan for 2010 to 2015**

## **OVERVIEW**

The Washington State Department of Correction's (DOC) core mission is ensuring safe communities. Part of this mission includes responsibly managing and mitigating the environmental impacts of DOC operations. To achieve that goal, the Department created its first Sustainability Plan in 2003. This plan set out to reduce the use of energy and potable water, control and mitigate wastewater generation, reduce the generation of solid and hazardous wastes and use of toxic materials. The Department's Capital Programs division set a goal to achieve LEED Silver Certification for all new construction and to pursue energy efficiency retrofits through the use of EScO projects.

The Department has received national and international attention for achievements in making facilities and operations more sustainable. This progress has been documented in annual reports from and posted at [www.doc.wa.gov/sustainability/default.asp](http://www.doc.wa.gov/sustainability/default.asp).

The Department has also identified and implemented ideas that were not in the original sustainability plan. These include using sustainability practices for education, socialization training and other rehabilitation efforts in support of the agency's core mission. Partnerships have been created with academia, environmental regulators, conservation organizations and host local governments to both protect the environment and improve it through a variety of programs ranging from the captive rearing of endangered frogs to onsite compost operations in partnership with the local community. In addition to environmental and social benefits realized cost control has also been achieved through these sustainability efforts. Beginning in 2010, the Department will set annual goals to pursue new projects and improve existing efforts. The Department will also continue to generate annual reports, but these reports will be changed from the fiscal year cycle to a calendar year cycle to meet regulatory requirements and provide better public information.

Since the first plan was developed the Department has both broadly embraced and enhanced sustainability, and has collected data and experiences that can now be used to expand its work in this area.

## **SUSTAINABILITY GOALS AND COMMITMENTS**

The Department has identified six overarching goals to achieve using strategies identified in the following section.

- To reduce the human, environmental and economic costs of prisons
- To use environmental progress as a social learning tool to promote sustainable development and sustainable living
- To serve as a resource for communities seeking to improve their sustainability
- To support research and environmental restoration to reverse historic environmental damage
- To encourage publication of sustainability accomplishments and public review
- Measure sustainability progress and current environmental impacts

## **STRATEGIES**

The Department has five organizational areas that have unique opportunities to pursue sustainability. They are Administration, Prisons, Community Corrections, Correctional Industries, and Health Services. The opportunities for each area are described in the following sections.

All sections contribute to the Department's generation of green house gas emissions, transportation fuel and energy consumption and all will define strategies to reduce these impacts on the environment by assuming responsibility uniformly throughout the department. This will require active involvement within and between divisions. It will require engagement of key stakeholders to explore the goals and the division processes, and potential benefits to be gained.

This plan represents a commitment to an overall approach and a commitment of necessary participation of department and division leadership and stakeholders. Given the current financial crises faced by the State, these goals may be difficult to achieve. This document is intended to be a working guidance document to define the departments overarching goals and suggest initial strategies to move toward and achieve these goals. The goals may be refined as our knowledge and experience broadens in these areas.

### **Administration:**

Administration (both Headquarters and the management structure of the satellite DOC offices) represent the managerial functions of the Department. This includes management, budget, legal, construction, performance measurement and much more. Administration has the following objectives applicable to sustainability:

- Provide a central core of expertise
- Encourage the development of new ideas
- Provide training and education
- Identify and set goals appropriate for their working environment
- Set an example through good office practices
- Support sustainability investments in green buildings
- Establish partnerships with other governmental agencies and academia
- Evaluate the relationship between sustainability activities and other departmental objectives
- Measure and report out on accomplishments and ensure successes are shared

2012 Goals for Administration are:

- Facilitate training opportunities for maintenance staff responsible for the optimal performance and operation of facility mechanical and environmental systems
- Increase sustainability of operations through sustainable purchasing decisions and strategies

### **Prisons:**

Prisons provide a unique environment for testing and implementing sustainability concepts and evaluating these ideas against the broader goal of rehabilitation and societal integration. In addition to the basic elements of providing housing, food, and medical support, prisons provides education, jobs and counseling services that can be effectively integrated into the Departments sustainability commitments. Prisons have the following objectives applicable to sustainability:

- Reduce energy and water consumption and minimize wastewater generation
- Provide training in composting and recycling, reduce disposal of waste
- Grow food and base menus on locally available products
- Provide a labor force for environmental maintenance and restoration
- Properly operate and maintain facilities in a sustainable fashion

2012 goals for Prisons are:

- Ensure food-waste diversion at all prisons
- Startup bio-solids composting operations at CCCC and LCCC
- Maintain and expand successful water reduction strategies
- Maintain and improve waste reduction efforts
- Maintain reductions in transportation fuel use achieved in 2009.
- Improve reporting

#### **Correctional Industries:**

Correctional Industries (CI) provides job training to inmates. Through the production of saleable products and services, CI has a number of opportunities to include sustainability in their work. Furniture manufacturing, laundry operations, clothing manufacturing and management and large scale food preparation are some of the existing CI operations. CI is also working to partner with outside companies to develop Class One Industries. CI has the following objectives applicable to sustainability:

- Ensuring that all operations are compliant with environmental regulations
- Applying the Lean Process Management concept to support waste recycling, efficient material utilization and toxics minimization
- Establishing Class One Industry partnerships that participate in the Green Economy
- Providing food, clothing and cleaning supplies that support sustainability tenets
- Practice sustainable purchasing, including establishment of a Supply Chain Management position, and “back casting” up the supply chain for local, sustainable, green products
- Apply sustainable practices in all production systems, including:
  - Manufacture using dematerialization, building for disassemble, buying within 300 miles, eliminating VOCs from production and designing for reuse and recycle;
  - Apply sustainable practices to agriculture row crops including no till, organic and non-irrigated production.

2012 goals for CI are:

- Establish a Class One industry for solar hot water
- Establish a Tilapia growing operation at SCCC
- Establish and maintain closed loop processes within clothing manufacture
- Support achievement of sustainability objectives of the Department and other agencies by offering and manufacturing sustainable products
- Maintain achievements made by CI in waste reduction and its leadership in mattress recycling
- Expand sustainable products and services to Community Corrections Division
- Expand Paper recycling services to additional DOC facilities and State Agencies

## **Community Corrections:**

Community Corrections provides oversight of offenders on community custody supervision, operates the work release facilities, assists local law enforcement, operates community justice centers and manages a number of field offices throughout the state. Community Corrections has the following objectives applicable to sustainability:

- Minimize energy consumption through efficient office practices
- Minimize carbon footprint through the use of properly maintained fuel efficient vehicles

2012 goals for Community Corrections are:

- Provide lease language requiring the use of less toxic alternatives in cleaning services
- To comply with the States GHG reporting requirement will report/prepare inventories of miles driven and gallons of fuel purchased.
- Evaluate fleet size and inventory for appropriateness
- Ensure vehicles are properly maintained to reduce GHG emissions
- Grow food and generate offender activity and education about locally available products
- Provide a labor force for environmental maintenance and restoration through work crews
- Evaluate waste stream and recycling options and practices

## **Health Services:**

Health Services provides medical, dental and medical and behavioral health care to the roughly 17,600 individuals residing in the 12 prisons operated by the Department. The technologies and medications used in modern medicine create both environmental challenges and sustainability opportunities. Regulatory requirements for medical oversight may not conform to sustainability. Mercury fillings, endocrine disruptors, infectious waste and disinfectants are some of the issues that medical practitioners must manage for sustainability. Health Services has the following objectives applicable to sustainability:

- Ensure all operations are compliant with regulatory requirements
- Expand upon the linkages between sustainability and health

2012 goals for Medical are:

- Ensure all silver and mercury traps are operated and maintained correctly
- Convert remaining non digital X ray equipment to digital systems
- Use less toxic disinfectants; ensure toxic residuals are properly managed
- Retrieve and properly dispose of unused medications
- Identify industry best practices for sustainable health services
- Evaluate potential and value of tele-medicine
- Evaluate potential and value of centralized pharmacy

### **Progress Assessment**

The Department's annual Sustainability Report serves as the measure of the Department's present situation as well as being the tool to measure progress and to keep the plan updated and relevant. Periodic progress assessment will also be achieved through the use of accountability and performance managements tools routinely and successfully used within the Department by division.

This plan is intended to be a working document responsive to the experience, input and knowledge gained and will be reviewed and updated annually by the Sustainability Steering Committee.